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Message Text

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46 40
ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

NEA-09 AID-05 IGA-01 /038 W
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O 181830Z MAR 75 ZFF-6
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6804
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0523

SECTO 363

FOR MCCLOSKEY FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, SY, US
SUBJ: AID FOR SYRIA

REF: DAMASCUS 1030 AND 1032

1. I HAVE JUST SEEN DAMASCUS PRESS REPORTS AND AMBASSADOR MURPHY'S TELEGRAM (REFTELS) THAT SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAS CUT AID FOR SYRIA (I.E., SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUND) FROM $100 MILLION TO $25 MILLION--A REDUCTION OF $75 MILLION.

2. IF THIS REPORT IS CORRECT, I WANT YOU TO SEND FOLLOWING LETTER FROM ME TO SENATOR INOUYE:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAS VOTED TO REDUCE THE MIDDLE EAST SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUND UNDER THE FY 75 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT FROM THE AUTHORIZATION LEVEL OF $100 MILLION TO AN APPROPRIATION LEVEL OF $25 MILLION.

AS WE INFORMED THE CONGRESS WHEN THE MIDDLE EAST
PROTION OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S FY 75 BUDGET REQUEST
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WAS SUBMITTED, WE ENVISAGE UTILIZING AT LEAST A

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SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUND FOR PROGRAMS IN SYRIA. WE CONSIDER THIS DEMONSTRATION OF U.S. CONCERN FOR SYRIAN DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS SUPPORTIVE OF AN ESSENTIAL TO OUR DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. SYRIA IS A KEY COUNTRY IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACEMAKING PROCESS IN WHICH WE ARE ENGAGED AND WHOSE SUCCESS IS SO VITAL TO OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS. A REDUCTION IN THE AUTHORIZED LEVEL OF THIS FUND CAN ONLY CAST DOUBT ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR STATED POLICY PURPOSES AND HAVE A GRAVELY ADVERSE IMPACT ON OUR CURRENT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS.

I STRONGLY URGE, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT THIS ACTION OF THE COMMITTEE BE RECONSIDERED AND THAT THE FULL AMOUNT AUTHORIZED FOR THE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUND BE APPROPRIATED. UNQUOTE.

3.IN ADDITION TO LETTER, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON AMBASSADOR MURPHY'S COMMENTS IN DAMASCUS 1032 IN BRIEFING KEY MEMBER OF CONGRESS ON DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR U.S. POLICY TOWARD SYRIA AND OUR EFFORTS KEEP SYRIA ENGAGED IN OUR APPROACH TO MIDDLE EAST PEACE IF THIS CUT STANDS. I WANT YOU TO MAKE ALL-OUT EFFORT TO REVERSE INOUYE COMMITTEE DECISION IF IT HAS IN FACT BEEN TAKEN.

4. FOR DAMASCUS: AMBASSADOR MURPHY SHOULD INFORM SARG AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL THAT I HAVE PERSONALLY COMMUNICATED WITH CONGRESS TO SEEK TO RETAIN FULL AMOUNT AUTHORIZED IN AID FOR SYRIA. KISSINGER

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